General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 110

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/56/574)]

56/121. Combating the criminal misuse of information technologies

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in which Member States resolved to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, in conformity with the recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council,[2] are available to all, and its resolution 55/63 of 4 December 2000, in which it invited Member States to take into account measures to combat the criminal misuse of information technologies,

Recognizing that the free flow of information can promote economic and social development, education and democratic governance,

Noting the significant advancements in the development and application of information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Expressing concern that technological advancements have created new possibilities for criminal activity, in particular the criminal misuse of information technologies,

Noting that reliance on information technologies, while it may vary from State to State, has resulted in a substantial increase in global cooperation and coordination, with the result that the criminal misuse of information technologies may have a grave impact on all States,

Recognizing that gaps in the access to and use of information technologies by States can diminish the effectiveness of international cooperation in combating the criminal misuse of information technologies, and recognizing also the need to facilitate the transfer of information technologies, in particular to developing countries,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/55/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 17.

Noting the necessity of preventing the criminal misuse of information technologies,

Recognizing the need for cooperation between States and the private sector in combating the criminal misuse of information technologies,

Underlining the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation among States in combating the criminal misuse of information technologies, and, in this context, stressing the role that can be played by the United Nations and other international and regional organizations,

Welcoming the work of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Recognizing with appreciation the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth and tenth sessions and the subsequent preparation of a plan of action against high-technology and computer-related crime, which recognizes, inter alia, the need for effective law enforcement and the need to maintain effective protections for privacy and other related basic rights, as well as the need to take into account ongoing work in other forums,[3]

Noting the work of international and regional organizations in combating high-technology crime, including the work of the Council of Europe in elaborating the Convention on Cybercrime,[4] as well as the work of those organizations in promoting dialogue between government and the private sector on safety and confidence in cyberspace,

1. *Invites* Member States, when developing national law, policy and practice to combat the criminal misuse of information technologies, to take into account, as appropriate, the work and achievements of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and of other international and regional organizations;

2. *Takes note* of the value of the measures set forth in its resolution 55/63, and again invites Member States to take them into account in their efforts to combat the criminal misuse of information technologies;

3. *Decides* to defer consideration of this subject, pending work envisioned in the plan of action against high-technology and computer-related crime of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.[3]

88th plenary meeting
19 December 2001

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[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 10* (E/2001/30/Rev.1), part two, chap. I.

[4] Council of Europe, *European Treaty Series*, No. 185.